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AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 17 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 3 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 49.2 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 17 totaled 419,854 cars, 5.4 percent below 1980, but 1.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.8 percent in the East, 4.0 percent in the South and 2.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Grain loadings were up 5,327 cars, or 17.7 percent, while metallic ores showed an increase of 3,848 cars, or 17.3 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 10 totaled 28,072 cars, down 12.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 50,080 trailers and/or containers, 14.8 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 2 weeks of the year was 48,593 cars, 12.5 percent lower than last year, and 87,122 trailers and/or containers, down 13.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 01/17/81:

	Loadings in Week ended January 17, 1981			Change from Corresponding Week 1980		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars			Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	35,408	I		5,327	17.7	D	483
Other farm products	5,292	I		468	9.7	I	541
Metallic ores	26,110	I		3,848	17.3	D	2,742
Coal	103,207	I		864	0.8	I	1,123
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,030	D		3,396	25.3	D	416
Nonmetallic minerals	12,885	D		1,529	10.6	D	1,177
Grain mill products	15,837	D		3,245	17.0	D	458
Food and kindred products	16,947	D		2,203	11.5	I	886
Primary forest products	19,958	D		838	4.0	D	122
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,339	D		2,309	21.7	I	759
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,499	D		1,283	5.9	I	903
Chemicals and allied products	26,605	D		2,622	9.0	D	1,260
Petroleum products	5,915	D		1,243	17.4	D	189
Stone, clay and glass products	12,987	D		3,037	19.0	D	564
Coke	5,684	D		760	11.8	I	27
Metals and products	14,971	D		3,495	18.9	I	808
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,665	D		638	3.7	I	3,467
Waste and scrap materials	13,396	D		983	6.8	I	1,748
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,174	D		2,202	19.4	I	1,016
All other carloads	39,715	D		4,498	10.2	I	3,637
LCL traffic	230	D		5	2.1	I	21
Total Cars Loaded	419,854	D		23,779	5.4	I	7,525

Corresponding week of 1980

443,633

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% Change</u>	
Total Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	1,170,444	1,250,644	D	6.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
Week ended January 10	31.6	31.9	D	1.0
Week ended January 17	<u>17.6</u>	<u>17.4</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>1.3</u>
3 Weeks cumulative	49.2	49.3	D	0.2